



Houston
www.visithoustontexas.com
Greg D. Ortale, President and CEO

Contacts:

John Harris
713/853-8109
Cell: 832/588-8492

Lindsey Brown
713/437-5275
Cell: 713/202-5685

February 16, 2009

Houston Chosen as Host of Tradeshow Gala Weekend

George R. Brown Convention Center selected as site for 'Fastest 50' event in 2009

HOUSTON – Houston will receive special attention from representatives of some of the most important trade shows in North America when they convene here November 13-15 for the seventh annual Tradeshow Week Fastest 50 gala weekend.

The TSW Fastest 50 will recognize the 50 fastest-growing trade shows in the United States and Canada. Decision-makers from more than 200 shows are expected to attend the festivities, which include all-day conference sessions and a luncheon at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The Hilton Americas-Houston will be the host hotel.

The Fastest 50 event holds special significance for the George R. Brown. The GRB hosted the inaugural Fastest 50 in November 2003 in what was the first event held after completion of the facility's \$165 million expansion project.

"Hosting the Fastest 50 is a great opportunity for Houston to gain more exposure within the tradeshow industry," said Dawn Ullrich, director of the George R. Brown Convention Center. "It was an exciting weekend in 2003 and we'll be glad to welcome them back again this fall."

The Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau played a key role in attracting the event to Houston and will be one of the sponsors.

"I am happy to welcome the Tradeshow Week Fastest 50 back to Houston," said Greg Ortale, president and CEO of the GHCVB. "Our city has changed so much since they were here in 2003. I can't wait for the attendees to experience Houston again."

George R. Brown Convention Center
1001 Avenida de las Americas
Houston, Texas 77010
713-853-8000
800-427-4697
www.houstonconventionctr.com

Greater Houston Convention
and Visitors Bureau
901 Bagby, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77002
713-437-5200
800-4-HOUSTON
www.visithoustontexas.com